

**REMARKS**

Claims 13-25 and 30-32 are in the application. The claims are now presented in a manner which more clearly distinguishes over the prior art. As noted in the specification at Paragraphs 3 - 11, signaling which relates to establishing a connection between devices in different networks has required conversion of the signaling messages into an intermediate protocol of the device used for forwarding the message. Once this is accomplished the protocol is converted to a protocol supported by the destination device. Sometimes the protocol supported by the destination device is the same protocol as that of the sending device and sometimes the two protocols differ. The invention as now presented provides a solution in which no protocol conversion needs to be performed, i.e., no conversion into the intermediate protocol, when the sending and receiving devices use the same protocol.

The claimed method and device, which provide for setting up connections, are not disclosed in the application EP0926909A2. Applicants request reconsideration of the claims based in part on the distinction that each of the independent claims is directed to signaling messages and signaling protocols of the type which are used to set up connections. By way of example, the network access device of claim 30 is configured to establish a connection between the first and second devices by

- (i) receiving and processing signaling messages of multiple different protocols, including the first and second protocols, while
- (ii) capable of forwarding the signaling message from the first device without performing conversion of the signaling message to an internal signaling protocol of the network access device and
- (iii) capable of forwarding the first signaling message without conversion to a different one of the multiple protocols

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are now distinct and non-obvious over the prior art and allowance is requested.


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Conclusion

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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